

Appl. No. : 10/090,039
Filed : February 27, 2002

B1
~~a dual buffer system comprising a first buffer having a first pK_a and a second buffer having a second pK_a , wherein said first pK_a and said second pK_a are within said first pH range and said second pH range respectively.~~

Please add the following new claim 27:

Sub C1
B2
~~27. (NEW) A culture medium, which is capable of supporting growth of viable microorganisms comprising:
a nutrient broth;
a dye which changes color with a change in pH from a first pH range to a second pH range; and
a dual buffer system comprising a first buffer having a first pK_a and a second buffer having a second pK_a , wherein said first pK_a and said second pK_a are within said first pH range and said second pH range respectively;
wherein said first pH range is between 6.8 and 7.2.~~

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Coe for the courtesy she extended to Applicants' representatives during a telephonic interview on January 16, 2003, during which the pending claims and the rejections set forth in the Office Action were discussed.

Applicants have amended Claim 21 and have added new Claim 27. As set forth in detail below, the amendments add no new matter and are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. The reasons for the amendments are set forth in detail below. The specific changes to the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined, while the deletions are [bracketed and in bold].

Applicants respond below to the specific rejections and objections raised by the Examiner in the Office Action of November 18, 2002.